

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 16, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. IVERSON made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 145.]

The Committee on Military Affairs and the Militia, to whom was referred the petition of Brevet Major James L. Donaldson, assistant quartermaster of the United States army, having had the same under consideration, report:

The petitioner was acting assistant quartermaster at Walnut Springs, before the city of Monterey, Mexico, after the city was taken by the American army, (in the month of September, 1846,) and as such had in his possession public funds to the amount of \$400, which he kept in a box or chest in his tent, this being the only means he had of keeping it. On the 10th of October, 1846, he had occasion to go to Monterey with Captain Webster, the officer in command, on official business, and left his tent in charge of a sentinel; during his absence his tent was entered in the rear and the money stolen, and although the most diligent search was immediately made, the funds have not been found, though the box was afterwards discovered in the neighboring bushes rifled of the money. Lieut. Bowen, who occupied the same tent, corroborates the statement of the petitioner as to the circumstances of the robbery, and gives it as his opinion that the amount lost was \$400. The testimony of the commanding officer and of the non-commissioned officers and privates all support Major Donaldson's statement; and the committee, being satisfied that the money was lost without any negligence or fraud on the part of the petitioner, report a bill for his relief.

